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~~30~~. (New) An energy line guide chain for running lines between a stationary and a moveable connection comprising

a plurality of interconnected plastic chain links, each chain link including two laterally spaced apart and parallel link plates extending in a longitudinal direction, and at least one crosspiece interconnecting the link plates, with the link plates of each chain link partially overlapping respective link plates of each longitudinally adjacent chain link, and with each link plate including a joint body and a joint receiver adjacent respective opposite ends of the link plate, with the joint body of each chain link engaged within a joint receiver of an overlapping link plate so as to define a joint axis which extends between the link plates and is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, with a clearance formed between opposing faces of the overlapping link plates of adjacent chain links, and wherein each interengaging joint body and joint receiver defines adjacent surface areas which include two diametrically opposed gaps and two diametrically opposed contact areas where the adjacent surface areas are in contact and which define a pivot axis which is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, and to the joint axis, so that the adjacent chain links can pivot relative to each other about the joint axis and the pivot axis.

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~~31~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ wherein the contact areas extend in directions which are substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction.

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~~32~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ wherein the joint body is substantially circular in cross

section, and the joint receiver is substantially oval in cross section.

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~~33~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ wherein the joint body is substantially oval in cross section and the joint receiver is substantially circular in cross section.

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~~34~~. The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ wherein the pairs of adjacent chain links are configured for pivoting relative to each other about the joint axis over an angle of up to about 45°.

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~~35~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ wherein each joint body comprises a plurality of annularly arranged body segments which are separated by slots.

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~~36~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ wherein each joint body has a free end which includes a radially outwardly directed collar.

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~~37~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~36~~ wherein each joint receiver includes a circumferential cavity which is sized to receive the collar of the associated joint body.

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~~38~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ wherein the at least one crosspiece includes a convexly curved portion which extends in the longitudinal direction from one side of the crosspiece, and a concave portion on the opposite side of the crosspiece which is configured to closely receive the convexly curved portion of a crosspiece of an adjacent

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chain link when the adjacent chain links are aligned in the longitudinal direction.

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~~39~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~38~~ wherein the convexly curved portion and the concave portion are each symmetrical with respect to a longitudinal axis which is midway between the link plates.

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~~40~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ wherein said at least one crosspiece of each chain link has a longitudinal length configured to cause the crosspieces of adjacent chain links to abut to thereby limit the relative pivotal movement about said joint axis in one direction.

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~~41~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ wherein each chain length further includes a second crosspiece extending between the link plates and spaced below said at least one crosspiece, with said second crosspiece having a longitudinal length less than that of said at least one crosspiece so that the second crosspieces of adjacent chain links are spaced apart when the adjacent chain links are longitudinally aligned and abut each other when the adjacent chain links are relatively rotated about the joint axis to a predetermined angle.

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~~42~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ wherein the at least one crosspiece is integrally connected to one of the link plates via a film hinge and is configured for releasable attachment to the other link plate.

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~~43~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~42~~ wherein the at least one crosspiece includes a projection

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adjacent the film hinge so that in a closed position of the crosspiece the projection engages an edge of the associated link plate.

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~~44~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ 1 wherein at least one link plate includes a stop element projecting longitudinally from one end and a stop surface at its other end which is positioned so as to be engaged by the stop element of an adjacent chain link to thereby limit the relative rotation of the adjacent chain links about the joint axis.

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~~45~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ 1 wherein each of the chain links comprises a plastic material which is molded in one piece.

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~~46~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~30~~ 1 further comprising a terminal connecting link which comprises two laterally spaced apart and parallel link plates extending in a longitudinal direction, and a base body interconnecting the two link plates, with the base body including at least one receptacle which extends in a direction generally perpendicular to the longitudinal direction so as to be adapted to receive a connection element which is mounted to a connection point, and with the base body further including a slide-in opening which communicates with the receptacle, and a locking element slideably received in the slide-in opening for securing the connection element in the receptacle of the base body.

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~~47~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~46~~ wherein the parallel link plates of the terminal connecting

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link are connected to respective link plates of an adjacent chain link so as to permit relative pivotal movement about a joint axis which is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction defined by the terminal connecting link.

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~~48~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~47~~ wherein the receptacle is defined by an internal wall which is at least in part spring elastic so as to be adapted to form a snap connection with the connection element.

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~~49~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~48~~ wherein the internal wall is defined by at least two wall segments which are separated by a slot.

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~~50~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~48~~ wherein the internal wall is defined by four wall segments, with first opposite wall segments being substantially rigid and second opposite wall segments being substantially spring elastic.

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~~51~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~50~~ wherein the locking element is slideable between (1) a locking position where the locking element impedes the deflection capability of the second opposite wall segments and (2) to a non-locking position where the deflection capability is not impeded.

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~~52~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~51~~ wherein the locking element is U-shaped so as to define two free legs, with the free legs and slide-in opening being configured so that the free legs engage the second opposite wall segments in the locking position of the locking element.

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~~53~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~52~~ wherein the locking element comprises a safety flap which is parallel to and spaced from the two free legs, wherein the base body includes a projection which extends into the plane of movement of the safety flap, with the safety flat and projection being configured to engage each other and prevent movement of the locking element to the locking position unless the safety flat is deflected.

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~~54~~. (New) The energy line guide chain of Claim ~~53~~ wherein the safety flap has an opening which engages the projection in the locking position to prevent unintentional movement of the locking element from the locking position unless the safety flap is deflected.

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